



# Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc.

## BULLETIN

Editor: Deirdre Brown [bul.editor@tasfieldnats.org.au](mailto:bul.editor@tasfieldnats.org.au)

Quarterly Bulletin

No 361

January 2016

The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club encourages the study of natural history and supports conservation. People of any age and background are welcome as members.

For more information, visit website <http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/>; email [info@tasfieldnats.org.au](mailto:info@tasfieldnats.org.au); write to GPO Box 68, Hobart, 7001; or phone our secretary on (03)62278638.

*We welcome articles and interesting photos for the Bulletin. If you would like to contribute to the next edition, please email the editor with your article or photos by 11 March 2016.*

Program .....	1	2016 Federation weekend .....	6
Subscriptions .....	1	Annual General Meeting and Election of Office	
Excursion to The Thumbs, East Coast .....	2	Bearers .....	7
End of year gathering, Mt Misery .....	5	Nomination Form .....	7

### Program

**General Meetings** start at **7.15 pm** for 7.30 pm on the first Thursday of the month and feature a guest speaker on natural history (no meetings or excursions in January). Meetings are held in the Life Science Building at the University of Tasmania.

**Excursions** are usually held the following Saturday or Sunday, meeting at 9.00 am outside the Museum in Macquarie St, Hobart. Bring lunch and all-weather outdoor gear. If you are planning to attend an outing, but have not been to the prior meeting, please confirm the details on the club website as late changes are sometimes made.

<b>Thurs Feb.4<sup>th</sup></b>	Meeting: Guest Speaker: James Wood (RTBG) presents 'Tough Nuts to Crack' about his germination work and difficult plant families.
<b>Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Feb.</b>	<b>Excursion:</b> To be announced
<b>Mon Feb 22</b>	<b>Deadline for nominations for elections at AGM (see Page 7 for nomination form)</b>
<b>Thurs March. 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>AGM and President's Address</b>
<b>Sat. March.5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Excursion:</b> To be announced
<b>March 11-14</b>	<b>Federation Weekend 2016</b> , Gowrie Park. See draft program page 6-7
<b>March 25-28</b>	<b>Easter Camp</b> , possibly to West Coast but to be decided
<b>Thurs April 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Meeting:</b> Guest Speaker to be announced
<b>Thurs May 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Meeting:</b> Guest Speaker to be announced
<b>Thurs June 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Meeting:</b> Guest Speaker: Gintaras Kantvilas from the Herbarium will present 'Lichens'.
For details of talks and excursions, please check the website at <a href="http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/">http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/</a>	

### Subscriptions

A reminder that 2016 subs were due on 1 January, and can be paid by cheque to the Club address, by Paypal (follow the links on our website <http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/>) or by EFT to the Club account BSB 067 102 A/c 2800 0476. Please identify your payment with your name and initial.

Family \$35

Single \$30

Single Junior or Concession \$25

## Excursion to The Thumbs, East Coast

8 November 2015

**Attendees:** Ruwanga visiting from Sri Lanka, Genevieve Gates, David Ratkowsky, Kevin Bonham, Don Hurd, David Hanlon, Amanda Thomson, Mick Brown, Deirdre Brown, Kay Wilson, Fiona Walsh.

We met at the carpark on the Thumbs track road at about 10.30am. The day was beautifully sunny and warm, and flowering shrubs and singing birds were immediately obvious before we had even parked on the roadside.



*The excursion group*

*Photo: Amanda Thomson*

We walked up the hillside track through dry sclerophyll admiring the colour variations on *Cyathodes glauca* berries ranging from pale pink right through to deep purple.



*Cyathodes glauca*

*Photo: Amanda Thomson*

The group soon became strung out along the track as members stopped to photograph flowers, including some orchids, and to marvel at the truly prodigious number of skinks sunbaking on logs and stones. Three species were seen at various places through the day. Some members also had to stop to remove leeches – those large black ones that inhabit drier forests. Mick and Fiona enjoyed brushing up on their botany, although Mick lamented that he is a 20<sup>th</sup> century botanist and that many names have changed in the last few years.

We took the wet gully loop on the track and the party became even more spaced along the track as some

stopped to try to photograph a flock of about 12 strong-billed-honey eaters feeding in the wet sclerophyll.

We veered off to the left to take the forest loop and moved into wet sclerophyll, albeit rather dry. At this stage the party became very separated as there was so much to examine, and Amanda was left well in the rear when we heard a horrified cry from her, 'I've nearly been bitten by a copperhead!' Some panicked as they didn't hear the 'nearly'.

Amanda was crouched down to photograph something interesting in the leaf litter when she saw the snake at close range and fell back in shock. The snake kept approaching! Mick went back to assist and the snake slithered off into the scrub, but not before Amanda managed, in true Field Nats style, to take a photograph.



*Copperhead snake*

*Photo: Amanda Thomson*

Further up the hill we thought we could discern a feathered body in a high tree hollow, and surmised that it could be an owlet night-jar. Our binoculars weren't quite strong enough to get a good fix on the lighter object in the hollow. Mick took photographs with his big lens, but when he examined them at high magnification at home it was apparent that we were getting excited about a lighter coloured shard of wood!



*View south from The Thumbs*

*Photo: Deirdre Brown*

The party regrouped at the point where the forest loop rejoined the main track and as it was now well after midday we had lunch. Some energetic souls continued to the top of the big thumb (another km on up a steep hill) while others enjoyed the sun and fed or observed the skinks. Genevieve tried them out with grated carrot

(licked it) a salty chip (also licked), but the little reptile preferred a passing ant. Genevieve was amazed at its hunting prowess – ‘one second the ant was there, then it was gone!’ We noticed that many skinks had climbed into the cyathodes bushes and were fighting the bees for the nectar.



*Skink taking nectar from cyathodes flowers*

*Photo: Mick Brown*

We returned via the regular track which winds its way up over the rocky dolerite hill of the second thumb. The change in vegetation was noticeable here with the lack of soil and moisture on the rocky outcrops. Some species such as *Pelargonium australe* were miniaturised. Several endemics cling to the hill.



*Don and Mick climbing the rocky hill*

*Photo: Deirdre Brown*

We were back at the cars by 3.00pm and then Amanda spotted a sloughed snake skin by the road, and Kevin was hopeful of finding a moth for Abbey. No luck but he did find a miniscule peripatus under the litter – only a few mm long – he has sharp eyes. Amanda also noted a devil scat and a beefly.



*Snake skin*

*Photo: Amanda Thomson*

## Birds

Grey fantail  
 Striated pardalote  
 Grey currawong  
 Kookaburra  
 Brown thornbill  
 Strong-billed honeyeater (flock of 12)  
 Eastern spinebill  
 Black cockatoo  
 Green rosella  
 Brown goshawk  
 Yellow throated honeyeater

## Fungi (Compiled by Genevieve)

*Bovista sp*  
*Mycena carmeliana*  
 Slime mould – *Fuligo septica*



*Slime mould*

*Photo: Amanda Thomson*

## Plants (Compiled by Mick)

*Acacia genistifolia*  
*Acacia melanoxylon*  
*Acaena novae-zelandiae*  
*Argyrotegium mackayi*  
*Asplenium flabellifolium*  
*Banksia marginata*  
*Bedfordia linearis*  
*Bedfordia linearis x B. salicina*  
*Bedfordia salicina*  
*Blechnum nudum*  
*Blechnum watsii*  
*Bursaria spinosa*  
*Caladenia carnea*  
*Callistemon pallidus*  
*Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia*  
*Clematis aristata*

*Coprosma hirtella*  
*Coprosma quadrifida*  
*Coronidium scorpiodes*  
*Cyathodes glauca*  
*Dianella tasmanica*  
*Dichondra repens*  
*Diplarrhena moraea*  
*Drymophila cyanocarpa*  
*Epacris impressa*  
*Epacris marginata*  
*Eucalyptus delegatensis*  
*Eucalyptus globulus*  
*Eucalyptus obliqua*  
*Eucalyptus pulchella*  
*Eucalyptus viminalis*  
*Gahnia grandis*  
*Galium albescens*  
*Geranium potentilloides*  
*Gonocarpus teucrioides*  
*Hakea lissosperma*  
*Hibbertia riparia*  
*Kennedia prostrata*  
*Lepidosperma laterale*  
*Leptecophylla juniperina*  
*Leptospermum scoparium*  
*Lomandra longifolia*  
*Lomatia tinctoria*  
*Microsorium pustulatum*  
*Monotoca glauca*  
*Notelaea ligustrina*  
*Olearia argophylla*  
*Olearia lirata*  
*Olearia phlogopappa*  
*Olearia viscosa*  
*Pelargonium australe*  
*Pimelea lindleyana*  
*Pittosporum bicolour*  
*Plantago hispida*  
*Polystichum proliferum*  
*Pomaderris apetala*  
*Pteridium esculentum*  
*Pultanaea juniperina*  
*Senecio linearifolius*  
*Spyridium obovatum*  
*Tasmannia lanceolata*  
*Veronica formosa*

*Veronica gracilis*  
*Viola hederacea*  
*Wahlenbergia gracilis*  
*Zieria arborescens*

### Orchids (Compiled by Kevin)

*Chiloglottis grammata*  
*Caladenia carnea*  
*C. cracens*, probably *C. vulgaris* in bud  
*Thelymitra* sp in bud (probably *pauciflora* or similar), *Pterostylis* (melagramma group) finished  
*Corybas* sp finished.

### Snails (Compiled by Kevin)

*Tasmaphena ruga*  
*T. quaestiosa*  
*Prolesophanta nelsonensis*  
*Caryodes dufresnii*  
*Bothriembryon tasmanicus*  
*Paralaoma* sp "Knocklofty"\*  
*P. discors*\*  
*P. hobarti*  
*Trocholaoma parvissima*\*  
*Punctidae* sp "Micro Cripps"\*  
*Planilaoma* sp (unallocated)  
*"Allocharopa"* sp ("legrandi" group)  
*Elsothera* sp "Orford"  
*Thryasona diemenensis*  
*Helicarion cf cuvieri*

### Note from Kevin:

The four marked \* were new records for the Thumbs, taking my total from there to 19 species, a surprisingly long list given recent dry conditions.

Some other invertebrates: Millepedes were very scarce, but the centipede *Cormocephalus westwoodi* and the scorpion *Cercophonius squama* were very common. One *Lissotes* stag beetle was seen (but it wasn't the threatened species *L. latidens*) as was one very young velvet worm.

### Deirdre Brown



**Leech – Ugh!**

**Photo: Amanda Thomson**



## End of year gathering, Mt Misery

5 December 2015



The gathering at Mt Misery carpark

Photo: Geoff Carle

**T**welve Field Nats went on the Mt Misery walk with another four joining for the BBQ afterwards. With a shorter time window for the walk this time, most of us walked up to Flat Rock, while a few walked to the forest loop and “the so-called waterfall” instead. After recent rains conditions were quite damp despite the dry spring, and fungi were prolific. Geoff Carle has posted an excellent montage of shots of them on the club Facebook page.



Fungi at Mt Misery

Photo: Geoff Carle

On the May outing to Mt Misery, I had thought the plateau near Flat Rock might be interesting for orchids. We only saw one species in flower there – *Prasophyllum concinnum*, a common southern Tasmanian leek orchid that a few decades back had been feared extinct! About 15 plants in flower, with a lot of variation in flower colour from pale green through to dark brown were seen. There was quite a display of flowers generally on the heathland attracting many different moths.

The Mt Misery BBQ is not only covered but well equipped with plates and tools. We were joined for lunch by a cute pademelon carrying a joey.



Pademelon and Joey

Photo: Geoff Carle

I recorded seven species of snail:

*Caryodes dufresnii*, *Tasmaphena sinclairi*, *Allocharopa* sp “Wellington”, A sp “June”, *Paralaoma discors*, *Pernagera kingstonensis* and a charopid I’m calling *Planilaoma* sp “Lake Esperance”, though it will be described in a new genus.

The last three were new records for Mt Misery and the last was especially odd. Its previous records come from Hartz Mountains, Mt Wellington and near Lake Skinner, and were all either in alpine areas or high-altitude rainforests. To find it at only 480 m on a musk tree near the rainforest platform was a big surprise, but may at least explain its dispersal between mountain areas.

**Kevin Bonham**

### Fungi (Compiled by Genevieve Gates)

*Amanita umbrinella* group

*Bovista brunnea*

*Byssomerulius corium*

*Calocera guepinioides*

*Clitocybula* ‘brick red’

*Coprinellus* sp.

*Descomyces albus*

*Discinella terrestris*

*Entoloma conferendum*

*Ganoderma australe*

*Hygrocybe arcohastrata?*

*Hygrocybe chromolimonea*

*Hypoxylon* aff. *placentiforme*

*Hypoxylon howeanum*

*Inocybe* ‘bruising orange red’

*Laccaria* sp.  
*Mycena subgalericulata*  
*Panellus longinquus*  
*Pholiota squarrosipes*  
*Porpolomopsis lewelliniae*  
*Psathyrella* sp.  
*Scutellinia scutellata*  
*Xylaria castorea*  
*Xylaria hypoxylon*  
*Xylaria tuberiformis*

## Plant List (Compiled by Annabel Carle)

TFNC Mt Misery Plant List 5 Dec 2015	
Plant family-species name	Common name
<b>RAINFOREST</b>	
Lichens – <i>Pseudocyphellaria billardierei</i> possibly	
Ferns – <i>Dicksonia antarctica</i>	Soft tree-fern
<b>Monocotyledons</b>	
Orchidaceae – <i>Chiloglottis gunnii</i>	Bird Orchid
Orchidaceae – <i>Corybus</i> sp	Helmet orchids - leaf only
Orchidaceae – <i>Gastrodia sesamoides</i>	Potato Orchid – in bud
<b>Dicotyledons</b>	
Asteraceae – <i>Bedfordia salicina</i>	Tasmanian Blanketleaf
Atherospermataceae – <i>Atherosperma moschatum</i>	Sassafras
Elaeocarpaceae – <i>Aristotelia peduncularis</i>	Heartberry in flower
Ericaceae – <i>Cyathodes glauca</i>	Purple Cheeseberry
Escalloniaceae – <i>Anopterus glandulosus</i>	Tasmanian Laurel
Fagaceae – <i>Nathoffagus cunninghamii</i>	Myrtle Beech
Luzuriagaceae – <i>Drymophila cyanocarpa</i>	Turquoise Berry
Myrtaceae – <i>Eucalyptus delegentensis</i> ssp <i>tasmaniensis</i>	Gum-topped Stringybark
Myrtaceae – <i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>	Stringybark
Myrtaceae – <i>Eucalyptus regnans</i>	Giant Ash
Rhamnaceae – <i>Pomaderris apetala</i>	Common Dogwood
Ranunculaceae – <i>Clematis</i> sp	Clematis
Rubiaceae – <i>Galium</i> sp (poss <i>G. australe</i> ?)	Bedstraw
Rutaceae – <i>Nematolepis squamea</i>	Satinwood/Tallow-wood
Rutaceae – <i>Zieria arborescens</i>	Stinkwood
Thymelaceae – <i>Pimelea drupacea</i>	Cherry Riceflower
Urticaceae – <i>Urtica</i> sp ( <i>incisa</i> ?)	Stinging Nettle (Scrub Nettle?)
<b>PLATEAU/HEATHLAND</b>	
Lycopodiaceae – <i>Lycopodium deuterodensum</i>	Bushy Clubmoss
<b>Monocotyledons</b>	
Hemerocallidaceae – <i>Thelionema caespitosum</i>	Tufted Lily
Orchidaceae – <i>Pterostylis</i> sp	Greenhood sp
Orchidaceae – <i>Proasphillum concinnum</i>	Trim Leek Orchid
Orchidaceae – <i>Thelymitra</i> sp	Sun Orchid - in bud
Restionaceae sp.	
<b>Dicotyledons</b>	
Cunilniaceae – <i>Bauera rubioides</i>	Wiry Bauera
Dilleniaceae – <i>Hibbertia procumbens</i>	Spreading Guineaflower
Droseraceae – <i>Drosera</i> sp ( <i>peltata</i> ?)	Pale Sundew
Ericaceae – <i>Epacris lanuginosa</i>	Swamp Heath
Ericaceae – <i>Richaea sprengeioides</i>	Rigid Candleheath
Myrtaceae – <i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	Common Teatree
Fabaceae – <i>Oxylobium ellipticum</i>	Golden Shaggyapea
Myrtaceae – <i>Melaleuca squamea</i>	Swamp Honeymyrtle
Proteaceae – <i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia
Stylidiaceae – <i>Stylidium graminifolium</i> ?	Narrowleaf Triggerplant
<b>BBQ AREA</b>	
Asteraceae – <i>Cassinia aculeata</i>	Dolly Bush
Asteraceae – <i>Olearia argophylla</i>	Musk Daisybush
Ericaceae – <i>Monotoca glauca</i> possibly	Broomheath

## 2016 Federation weekend

### Notice & Preliminary Program from Launceston Field Naturalists Club: Gowrie Park, March long week-end (Friday 11<sup>th</sup>-Monday 14<sup>th</sup>).

Launceston Field Naturalists Club will be hosting the Next Federation Weekend. This is being held early in the year (on the long week-end in March 2016 - Friday 11<sup>th</sup>-Monday 14<sup>th</sup>), to avoid clashing with ANN in spring. Given the time of year, the main theme of the weekend will be environmental interactions and drivers of diversity, but we will also delve a little more into the undergrowth, and into methodology of investigation and classification of what we find.

We will have the Gowie Park Wilderness Village as accommodation and base, from which we can access excursions to a wide range of climatic zones containing a variety of geological features. These include open sclerophyll, rainforest, and alpine. The preliminary program includes one day comparing diverse habitats in the Mole Creek area, and one day visiting Devil's Gullet and the associated alpine flora, with stops to compare the flora and associated micro fauna as we climb.

### Draft Itinerary

- **Friday afternoon** arrive, byo dinner and refreshments.
- **Friday evening:** welcome and discussion on objectives and methodology (details to be advised).
- **Saturday:** Field trip as above (probably Devil's Gullet)
- **Saturday or Sunday evening dinner:** (depending on numbers): BBQ or dinner at the function room of the Old Black Stump Restaurant (Formerly Weindorfers Restaurant)
- **Saturday evening guest speaker:** Bob Mesibov\*. "Taxonomy Ain't What It Used To Be".
- **Sunday:** Field trip as above (probably Mole Creek)
- **Sunday evening dinner:** BBQ or Black Stump Restaurant

- **Monday:** Book out, with optional activities to be advised for those not travelling far.
- We look forward to hearing from any one attending who can lead brief field discussions on any of the flora or fauna groups we will encounter.

Note: Bob Mesibov is an Honorary Research Associate at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery. He has described or redescribed more than 170 species of native millipedes from NSW, Qld, SA, Tas, Vic and the NT, and is the compiler of the millipede section of the Australian Faunal Directory and the online catalogue, 'Millipedes of Australia'.

The talk will look back at the remarkable changes in zoological taxonomy over the past 15 years, plus Bob's adventures chasing small creatures in out-of-the-way places.

## Accommodation

The Gowrie Park Wilderness Village has variety of accommodation options. We will have exclusive use of the bunkhouse, with large communal dining / meeting room and communal kitchen.

- The bunk-house contains 14 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms, \$25 / adult / night. Bedrooms contain a mixture of bunks and single beds, but

all providing 2 or 3 singles without the use of top bunks.

- For those who may want a more self contained option, there are also 4 self-contained cabins that sleep 6 (queen + 2 sets bunks). These are \$110 night including linen, but will not be held, so first in, first served.
- There is overflow backpackers accommodation if we fill up the bunk-house (\$35 / night, bring or hire linen).
- Powered & unpowered camping sites also available.

Booking can be made directly with the park on 03-64911385 (be sure to mention LFNC group booking).

To view accommodation options, go to

<http://www.gowriepark.com.au/tasmanian-accommodation.html>

For menu of Black Stump Restaurant see

<http://theoldblackstump.com.au/our-menu/>

(For an organised function involving larger numbers and a dedicated function room there will be a more limited choice arranged beforehand, such as alternate drop, to facilitate timely delivery of all members.)

---

## Annual General Meeting and Election of Office Bearers

### Annual General Meeting Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc. GPO Box 68, Hobart, Tas. 7001

The 2016 AGM will be on Thursday 3rd March in the Life Sciences Lecture Theatre at the University of Tasmania. The President's talk will be at 7:30pm, followed by the AGM, then a General Meeting. All positions are vacant.

#### Nominations are called for the following office bearers:

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Bulletin Editor, Walks and Talks Coordinator, Librarian, Naturalist Editor, Three (3) Committee Members.

Below is a nomination, but any written nominations will be accepted provided they contain the same information as contained in the official nomination form. Nominations can also be emailed to [secretary@tasfieldnats.org.au](mailto:secretary@tasfieldnats.org.au) and the agreement of the nominee will be confirmed prior to the AGM.

---

## Nomination Form

Nomination for \_\_\_\_\_ (position) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by1: \_\_\_\_\_ Accepted2: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominations **must** reach the Secretary at the above address by **Monday 22 February**. If no-one has nominated for a position by this time then nominations can be delivered in person prior to the AGM.

The person being nominated must indicate their consent in writing or by email by **Monday 22 February**, however this does not have to be on the nomination form.